

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 31-35 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-30 are canceled without prejudice. New claims 31-35 are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0196808 to Chaskar et al. (hereinafter "Chaskar") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,542 to Kuehnel et al. (hereinafter "Kuehnel").

Claims 16-30 are canceled by way of the foregoing amendment and therefore the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is now moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection. Nevertheless, the new claims are distinguished from Chaskar and Kuehnel.

Neither Chaskar nor Kuehnel, alone or in combination, teach the elements of the newly added claims. Chaskar discloses using the access routers themselves to dynamically learn about geographically adjacent access routers, access routers sharing capability information without requiring a centralized scheme, and access routers to be selected and handoff arranged on the basis of capability information associated with one or more access routers. Thus Chaskar is directed towards

access routers sharing information with each other i.e., it is a peer-to-peer approach as provided in Chaskar – there is no use of the concept of a “proxy” (see paragraph [0015] of Chaskar).

In contrast, claim 31 recites a method in which the second access router, after authenticating and authorizing the wireless station, notifies the first access router of the authentication of the wireless station based upon a home address of the wireless station in the first extended service set and a care of address in the second extended service set received from the wireless station, wherein the wireless station has an active session with the first extended service set. The second access router receives rerouted traffic from the first access router in response to the notification to the first access router and a mobile internet protocol handoff procedure initiated by the first access router. The active session is restored to the wireless station via the second access router. In other words the new access router to which the wireless station has associated is now acting as a proxy for the previous access router.

In contrast, Kuehnel discloses a method for dynamic assignment of signaling virtual channels in wireless asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) communication networks. Kuehnel discloses a wireless architecture comprising two access points and a control function (CF) for coordinating and controlling signaling between the access points, (see Figure 3 and column 9, lines 1 through 33 of Kuehnel). Presumably, any number of access points may be controlled by the CF. Kuehnel

discloses a single CF, which may be considered analogous to an access router of the present application. However, Kuehnel fails to disclose multiple access routers, multiple ESSs, and inter-access router signaling in the context of inter-ESS handover as recited in claim 31.

More particularly, with reference to Figure 5 of Kuehnel, handover of the mobile terminal 40 from an old AP 44 to a new AP 50 is accomplished by signaling from the mobile terminal 40 to the CF 48. Kuehnel's disclosure is equivalent to intra-ESS handover, or simply basic service set (BSS) handover, not inter-ESS handover as in claim 31.

Therefore, claims 31-35 are patentable over Chaskar and Kuehnel, alone or in combination for at least the reasons cited above.


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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 31-35, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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